



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing Regulations

Refuge Information

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is a special place for wildlife and people. As you hunt or fish, please observe the following rules to help you enjoy and protect the rich diversity of habitats and wildlife found here.

The Refuge headquarters and visitor center is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Hunting and fishing hours follow those set in the Kansas State hunting and fishing regulations.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Target shooting is prohibited.

Refuge Fishing Regulations

- All Refuge waters, not in closed area, are open to sport fishing in accordance with Federal and State fishing regulations.
- All statewide length and creel limits apply to Refuge waters.

General Refuge Hunting Regulations

- All Federal and State hunting regulations apply.
- Hunters must possess all applicable Federal and State licenses and stamps.
- Refuge hunting areas are open to the hunting of waterfowl, deer, turkey, and upland game birds with seasons set by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.
- Hunting coyotes and furbearers is prohibited.
- Trapping is prohibited.
- Hunting areas north of the Neosho River are closed to all public entry from November 1 to March 1. See map for details.

- Shooting from or over roads and parking areas is prohibited.
- It is illegal to retrieve game from areas closed to hunting.
- Bows and arrows, shotguns, muzzleloaders, and rimfire firearms are permitted for Refuge hunting.
- All shotgun hunters must use non-toxic shot, except for deer hunting.
- Baiting and hunting over bait are not allowed on Refuge lands.
- Dogs must be under the owner's control at all times. Dogs may not be used for running or harassing wildlife.
- See map for hunting areas.

Waterfowl Specific Hunting Regulations

- Waterfowl hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal and State hunting regulations.
- Waterfowl hunting is allowed on specific Refuge areas south of the Neosho River only, unless posted otherwise. See map for other areas closed to waterfowl hunting.
- Hunting blinds must be removed daily; therefore, only portable or temporary blinds may be used to hunt waterfowl.
- Waterfowl hunters may not lay claim to hunting spots. Decoys or other equipment may not be left unattended at any time.
- Spent ammunition casings, to include shotgun shells, are considered litter and must be removed.
- The use of air-thrust and in-board water-thrust boats such as, but not limited to, hovercrafts, airboats, jet skis, water-cycles, and water-bikes, is prohibited.

Upland Game Specific Hunting Regulations

- Upland game bird hunting is permitted in accordance with State hunting regulations, unless stated otherwise.
- Non-toxic shot is required for all upland game bird hunting. The possession of lead shot is illegal.

Special Hunts

- The Refuge is open to the State youth waterfowl, and youth upland game bird hunts.
- The Refuge also offers a deer season that is specifically for youth and persons with disabilities.
- All Federal and State regulations apply.
- All Refuge specific regulations apply for these special hunts. Please refer to the specific regulations above for clarification.

Deer Specific Hunting Regulations

- Archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun deer hunting are permitted in accordance with State hunting regulations, unless stated otherwise.
- Rifle hunting is prohibited.
- Blinds and stands must be removed daily – unattended blinds and stands are subject to removal. Permanent blinds and stands are not allowed on the Refuge.
- Nails, wire, screws, or other objects that penetrate the bark of a tree to attach a stand or support a hunter is prohibited.
- Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.
- Sawing or chopping trees or limbs to create shooting lanes is prohibited.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 620 / 392 5553, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.